

Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TAGS LINE OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. PANAMA: SOVIET ARMS OR POLITICAL CHARMS?

THE PANAMANIAN PRESS HAS GIVEN PLAY TO THE VISIT BY A PANAMANIAN MILITARY DELEGATION TO CUBA TO VIEW DEMONSTRATIONS OF A WIDE ARRAY OF SOVIET ARMS BY CUBAN MILITARY FORCES. THE OFFICIALLY STATED PURPOSE OF THE VISIT IS TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PANAMANIAN AND CUBAN MILITARY.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WHILE NO INDICATION HAS BEEN GIVEN OF ANY PLANS TO BUY SOVIET ARMS, THE INTENT APPEARS TO BE AIMED AT SHORING UP TORRIJOS' SAGGING IMAGE AS A REVOLUTIONARY AND STEMMING THE EROSION OF SUPPORT FOR TORRIJOS FROM THE LEFT-IST PART OF HIS COALITION. (CONFIDENTIAL) PANAMA 6377, 10/17.)

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2. ARGENTINA: PERON RALLY PEACEFUL, PERON SPEECH
PREDICTABLE

MRS. PERON IN HER ADDRESS OCTOBER 17 BEFORE A CROWD OF
50,000 STRESSED PERONIST UNITY, URGED AN ALL OUT FIGHT
AGAINST TERRORISM, AND ANNOUNCED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO WAGE

INCREASES. DESPITE LEFT WING GUERRILLA THREATS TO DYNAMITE
THE CROWD, THE RALLY WAS CARRIED OFF PEACEFULLY, WITH THE
EXCEPTION OF THE EXPLOSION OF SEVERAL SMALL NOISE BOMBS.
(LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) BUENOS AIRES 6917, 10/17.)

3. SPANISH SAHARA

A. SPAIN SEEKS DECISIVE UN ACTION

AT HIS REQUEST, SPANISH AMBASSADOR TO THE UN DE PINIES MET
WITH AM- \$94.96,8#-, 59 3PRESS HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN
THAT THE THREATENED INVASION OF THE SPANISH SAHARA BY MOROC-
CAN CIVILIANS WOULD PLACE THE SPANISH AUTHORITIES IN THE
TERRITORY IN A DANGEROUS AND PERHAPS UNTENABLE POSITION. DE
PINIES BELIEVES A DUAL APPROACH BY THE UN MUST BE URGENTLY
UNDERTAKEN:

--THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF 24 SHOULD BE TAKEN UP
IMMEDIATELY IN THE FOURTH COMMITTEE SO THAT THE "DECOL-
ONIZATION PROCESS" CAN BE DEALT WITH IN THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY CONTEXTV AND,

--THE SECURITY COUNCIL SHOULD FOCUS ON THE THREAT TO
INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY UNDER ARTICLES 34, 35,
AND 73.

DE PINIES URGED AT AN OCTOBER 16 PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THE
SECURITY COUNCIL USE FORCE SHOULD THE SITUATION DETERIORATE.

B. MOROCCO'S KING HASSAN URGES MASS SUPPORT FOR MARCH

KING HASSAN OCTOBER 16 MADE A STRONG EMOTIONAL APPEAL TO HIS
PEOPLE TO SUPPORT THE MARCH ON SPANISH SAHARA. ONLY TWO PO-
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LITICAL PARTIES HAVE SO FAR REACTED PUBLICLY TO THE SPEECH.

EMBASSY COMMENT: OUR INITIAL IMPRESSION IS THAT, FOR THE
MOMENT, THERE IS GENUINE POPULAR SUPPORT FOR THE MARCH,
ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN AS YET LITTLE MOVEMENT SOUTHWARD OF
CIVILIANS. THE WARNING IN THE KING' SPEECH THAT THE MARCH
WOULD BE OPPOSED BY NON-SPANISH "FOREIGN ELEMENTS" WAS UN-
DOUBTEDLY AIMED AT ALGERIA AND F POLISARIO.

C. MAURITANIANS REACT FAVORABLY TO ICJ DECISION

MAURITANIA'S NATIONAL POLITICAL BUREAU (BPN), CHAIRED BY PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH, HELD AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION TO DISCUSS THE ICJ ADVISORY OPINION AND ISSUED A STATEMENT NOTING THAT THE DECISION CONFIRMS MAURITANIA'S LEGITIMATE POSITION ON THE SAHARA AND ITS POLICY OVER THE PAST 18 YEARS FOR RECOVERING ITS RIGHTS THROUGH REUNIFICATION OF ITS TERRITORY. THE BPN INVITED THE POPULACE TO CLOSE RANKS AND MOBILIZE FOR PERFECTING ITS INDEPENDENCE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WE SEE VIRTUALLY NO POSSIBILITY THAT THE MAURITANIANS WILL TRY TO MARCH PEACEFUL HORDES OR TROOPS INTO THE SPANISH SAHARA. (CONFIDENTIAL) UUUN 5115; (UNCLASSIFIED) USUN 5106; (CONFIDENTIAL) RABAT 4996 AND (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) NOUAKCHOTT 2123, 10/17.)

4. GUATEMALA/BELIZE DISPUTE: UK OPPOSES SUBMISSION TO THE ICJ

BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICIAL IN WASHINGTON MET WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS OCTOBER 17 AND STATED THAT HMG HAS RECONSIDERED ITS POSITION AND IS NOW AGAINST SUBMITTING THE GUATEMALA-BELIZE DISPUTE TO THE ICJ. THE BRITISH ARE SUPPORTED BY THE OELIZEANS, WHO ARE UNWILLING TO RISK A DECISION FAVORABLE TO GUATEMALA. THE EMBASSY OFFICIAL ADDED:

--UKUN WILL PROPOSE A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE UK AND GUATEMALA BUT WILL BLOCK ANY STRONGER RESOLUTION.

GAATHE UK HAS TAKEN THE DECISION TO REINFORCE THE BELIZE GARRISON IF AND WHEN IT PROVES NECESSARY. (SECRET)

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STATE 247553, 10/17.)

5. PRC'S EMERGING POLICY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

CONSULATE GENERAL HONG KONG REPORTS THAT PEKING'S BASIC SOUTHEAST ASIAN POLICY HAS CHANGED LITTLE IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE UU MILITARY WITHDRAWAL. THE PRC'S OWN SECURITY IS STILL ITS PARAMOUNT CONCERN AND ITS MAJOR OBJECTIVES IN THE REGION ARE:

--COMPETING WITH THE SOVIETS FOR INFLUENCE WITH THE GOVERNMENTS IN THE AREA.

--ENSURING THAT HANOI DOES NOT BECOME OVERLY IDENTIFIED WITH OR CONTROLLED BY THE SOVIETS;

--CONTINUING ITS DOMINANCE OVER SEA INSURGENT MOVEMENTS.

PEKING IS ATTEMPTING TO BALANCE ITS HISTORICAL ROLE AS IDEOLOGICAL MOTHER HEN TO INSURGENT MOVEMENTS WITH ITS PERCEIVED NEED TO CULTIVATE NORMAL RELATIONS WITH ESTABLISHED SEA GOVERNMENTS TO OFFSET SOVIET INFLUENCE.

STILL UNCERTAIN OVER HANOI'S INTENTIONS, PEKING IS TRYING TO MAINTAIN FRIENDLY RELATIONS BUT HAS WARNED HANOI AGAINST OVER IDENTIFYING WITH MOSCOW. TO A LARGE EXTENT, SEA NATIONS NOW VIEW PEKING AS A MODERATING INFLUENCE ON HANOI.

CONSULATE COMMENT: DESPITE GROWING CONCERN OVER HANOI'S AMBITIONS, PEKING'S DICHOTOMOUS STATE TO STATE AND PARTY TO PARTY RELATIONSHIPS IN THE AREA ARE PAHING OFF. ALTHOUGH PEKING'S NOW MUTED SUPPORT FOR INSURGENT MOVEMENTS PROBABLY DOES NOT REFLECT A LONG TERM POLICY CHANGE AT PRESENT. IT DOES INDICATE A GROWING INTEREST IN REGIONAL STABILITY. THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE OTHER STATES CAN ENCOURAGE THIS TREND COULD HELP DETERMINE PRC POLICY OVER THE LONGER RUN. (CONFIDENTIAL) HONG KONG 12216, 10/16.) INGERSOLL

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